



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

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AG Bruning: More Than 750 Pounds of Prescription Drugs Collected

LINCOLN - Attorney General Jon Bruning and the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) today announced results from the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day held April 30, 2011. In total, 752 pounds of prescription medication were collected from seven sites coordinated by the Attorney General's Office, the NSP and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

"Efforts like these work to reduce the amount of prescription drugs available for misuse," said Bruning. "By disposing of these medications safely and securely, Nebraskans have taken steps to make our kids safer."

The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks second only to marijuana as the most prevalent category of drug abuse in the United States, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. According to the survey, the majority (70 to 78 percent, depending on the drug) of Americans 12 and older who abused prescription drugs got them from friends and family, including from their home medicine cabinets.

"Through the awareness and concern of Nebraska citizens we were able to collect 752 lbs. of unused medications," said Colonel David Sankey, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "We would like to thank everyone who participated in this effort. Safely disposing of unwanted medications keeps them from falling into the wrong hands and helps to prevent tragedies related to their abuse."

The agencies coordinated collection sites in Lincoln, Fremont, South Sioux City, Columbus, York, Lexington and Grand Island.

According to the DEA, more than 376,000 pounds of medications were collected in total during the nationwide event.

For more results of the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back, visit www.nationaltakebackday.com or www.dea.gov.